of the country if the FCI management fails to concede their demand to abolish the contract labour system;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto; and

(c) whether Government propose to examine the demands of the workers of PCI?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI TARUN GOGOI) : (a) The FCI Workers Union had submitted a charter of demands on 20th March, 1992, including the demand for abolition of contract labour system.

(b) and (c) Such demands are gone into by the FCI managemnet. An amicable understanding has been reached between the management and the workers unions and they have signed a Memorandum of Understanding on 10th April, 1992. As a result, the Union agreed to withdraw the agitationul programme.

Old Age Assistance to the residents of rural Delhi

*173. SHRIMATI KAILASHPATI : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the residents of rural Delhi are not receiving preferential treatment in getting Old Age Assistance or other benefits;

(b) if so, wheher Government propose to take any remedial measures in this regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons therfor ?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI) : (a) No, Sir. Old Age people living in rural as well as urban areas of U.T. of Delhi are treated alike.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Proposals for integrated Steel Plants

*174. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Karnataka Government have sought permission to allow integrated steel plants in the joint sector for Vijayanagar Steel Plant and if so, the details thereof indicating the proposals received and action taken thereon; and

(b) whether any request for assistance to these projects from the Centre has also been received and if so, the details thereof indicating the action taken thereon

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) and (b) The new industral policy announced in July, 1991, had removed 'iron and steel' from the list of industries reserved for the public sector and also exempted it from the requirements of compulsory licensing. Industrial Licence is no longer required for setting up steel plants provided that the location is not within 25 kms of a city having a population of more than 10 lakhs as per the 1991 census. The Government of Karnataka is however proposing to set up a steel plant in the joint sector. For this project the major assistance sought by the Government of Karnataka relates to the transfer of Government of India's shareholding in Vijayanagar Steel Limited (VNSL), land and assets of VNSL to the State Government, and to the transfer of Iron Ore Mines sought to be linked with the proposed project. These are under examination.

Drug addicts in the capital

*175. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a survey conducted by the Directorate of Social Welfare, Delhi, has revealed that there are more than one lakh drug addicts in the capital and their number is increasing day by day;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what action Government propose to take to tackle the problem of drug addiction in the capital in particular and the country in general ?